



# Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

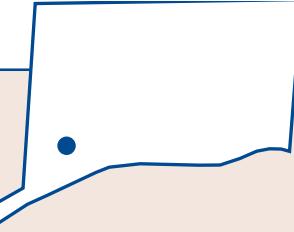
## *The Workplace, Inc., Southwest Connecticut*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Workplace, Inc., was selected to receive a job training grant. The Workplace Inc., Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Investment Board, is a nonprofit organization that provides employment and training services for a 20-town region in Fairfield



### Job Training Grant

**\$200,000**

EPA has selected The Workplace, Inc., for a job training grant. The Workplace, Inc., plans to train 60 students, place 48 in environmental jobs, and track graduates for two years. The program will consist of three training cycles of 340-350 hours each. Graduates of the program will obtain certifications in lead and asbestos abatement, 40-hour HAZWOPER, and environmental technician. Trainees who go beyond the basic course requirements may become certified in a number of other environmental areas with a potential for earning up to 13 college credits. Primary trainers will be selected through a competitive bidding process. Students will be recruited primarily from among the residents of the five towns targeted by this program. The Workplace, Inc., will institute an environmental jobs hotline, establish a job club, and work with members of the advisory board who are in the environmental sector to place program graduates.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

Marcus Holmes, EPA Region 1

617-918-1630

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: The Workplace, Inc., CT

203-610-8538

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

County. The job training grant will target five of these towns. Segments of these five towns (total population

171,320) have high levels of unemployment, poverty, and crime. In Norwalk, the largest of the five towns, over 75 percent of family public housing units and the majority of the city's industrial properties are located in three census tracts targeted for recruiting participants. Recent assessments have identified 26 brownfield sites within the target area. These sites are often adjacent to blighted areas with sub-standard housing and abandoned buildings. The Workforce, Inc., has determined that environmental technicians will be in demand within the target communities and throughout the state.

Initiatives passed by the state legislature to assist stakeholders in cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields will help expand employment opportunities for environmental technicians.